

REMARKS

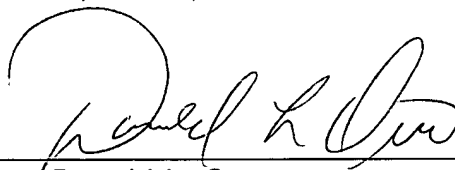
By the present amendment, claim 21 has been retained in this application. Also, claims 23-38 have been added. Accordingly, favorable consideration of the pending claims 21 and 23-38 is respectfully requested.

In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. CUTLP0101USA).

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX – Amendment Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

Following is a marked-up version of the above amendments to the specification and claims, with added material underlined, and with removed material struck out and in brackets.

In the Specification

A new paragraph has been added immediately preceding page 1, line 7.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28 to read as follows:

This invention features a locking connector for electrically interconnecting first and second electrical conductors, such as first and second sections of electrical wire. An electrical contact component is electrically interengaged with the first conductor. The contact component includes first and second, spaced apart contact sections and an intermediate contact section that interconnects the first and second sections. The intermediate contact section includes an opening that receives the second conductor. A set of at least two spring locking clips are mounted to the first contact section and generally serially arranged to face away from the opening in the intermediate contact section such that the clips are sequentially and resiliently opened by introducing the second conductor through the opening. The clips are spring biased to grip the second conductor at a plurality of locations and hold the second conductor in electrical interengagement with the

second contact section. As a result, the clips resist disengagement of the second conductor from the contact component.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26, to read as follows:

The first plate may carry a pair of generally parallel lips that extend transversely therefrom. The first segment of one of the clips may be interconnected between the intermediate contact section wall and one of the lips, and the first segment of the other clip may be interconnected between the pair of lips. A distal lip may extend transversely from the second plate for limiting the extent to which the second conductor may be introduced through the opening of the contact. The second plate may include guide means for locating the second conductor relative to the second plate. This guide means may comprise an elongate rib formed in the second plate.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7, to read as follows:

As best illustrated in Fig. 3, the locking ~~[contact]~~ connector assembly 2 is permanently mounted within enclosure 12. Assembly 2, shown by itself in Fig. 1, includes a contact component 4 having a generally C-shaped cross sectional configuration, and a pair of leaf spring locking clips 6 and 8 mounted within contact component 4.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 20, to read as follows:

The second spring clip 8 is constructed in a similar manner and is likewise mounted permanently within contact component 4. In this case, the upper clip segment 152 is fit securely between lips 112 and 114, and lip 98. The locking spring clip is folded and again includes a spring bias that urges clip segment 154 downwardly as indicated by downward arrow [162] 160 in Fig. 3. Alternative means may be employed for securing the spring clips to the contact component.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 14, to read as follows:

Assorted other types of electrical appliances may employ the locking connector assembly of this invention. For example, the connector may be employed [in] with industry standard connector heads for low voltage and high voltage connections. Likewise, the connector may be employed in high and low voltage plugs and switches.

In the Claims

Claim 21 has been retained in this application.

New claims 23-38 have been added.